

76-4175-24

RECORDED - JEN:ECB

January 19, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

With reference to the two memoranda which I have submitted as a result of the telephonic conversations which I had with the Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office of the FBI concerning the attempted escape from Alcatraz on January 13, 1939, I am attaching hereto a communication dated January 16, 1939, from the Agent in Charge at San Francisco, and which relates in memorandum form and in somewhat greater detail the matters covered by him in his conversations with me.

Respectfully

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JAN 19 1939
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
F. B. I.
RECEIVED - JAN 19 1939

RECEIVED COPY FILED IN

76-4175-24

RAG:MP

January 27, 1939

76-4175

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the request contained in your letter to the Bureau dated January 19, 1939, there are attached hereto photographs of the following individuals:

Arthur Barker, Alcatraz #268
William Martin, Alcatraz #370
Rufus McCain, Alcatraz #267
Henry Young, Alcatraz #244
Eale Stamphill, Alcatraz #435

These pictures are being forwarded to you in order that they may be included in the album retained in your Office.

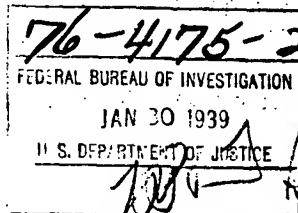
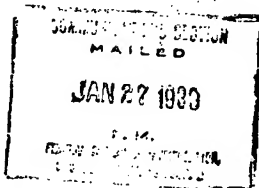
Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. Quinn _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

RECORDED



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
January 26, 1939

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER alias
DOC BARKER (Deceased) ETAL
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS.

Reference is made to Los Angeles letter dated January 24, 1939 enclosing a letter and papers received by that office from MISS FRANCES HELD, which is believed by the Los Angeles Office to have some connection with the above entitled case.

Our reading of this letter discloses that it is undoubtedly a letter written by someone in a Veterans' Administration Home, which is borne out by letter of reference stating Sawtelle is a Veterans' home near Los Angeles. There is nothing in the letter to indicate that it came from an inmate at Alcatraz, and further such a letter as this would not have been transmitted from Alcatraz, nor could a newspaper clipping have been sent from there since newspapers are not allowed on the Island for inmates.

Letter of reference does not state how Miss HELD obtained these documents, whether or not she is reliable, whether they came to her in some regular or irregular manner, and in view of the fact that it is my opinion this matter is not of importance regarding any phase of the investigation in connection with the most recent attempted escape from Alcatraz, despite the fact that there is a photograph of the Island and a comment "From the window we will escape shortly", no investigation will be conducted in this connection.

It is noted in the last paragraph of letter of reference that this office is requested to furnish the Bureau and Los Angeles Office immediately with photostatic copies of the documents enclosed, but in view of the fact that this matter will not receive investigative attention by us, it is suggested that the Bureau, when more important matters permit, have photostatic copies made forwarding them to the San Francisco and Los Angeles Offices so that the files will be complete.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. PIERCE,
Special Agent in Charge

NJLP:MLA
Enclosures

cc Los Angeles
76-347

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

cc San Francisco 1/25/39
cc Los Angeles

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 27 1939
FUG. DIV.

149

*Look
Mon Jan*

INSTRUCTIONS TO PATIENT FOR GASTRIC ANALYSIS: Your Doctor desires a Laboratory Examination made on specimens of your stomach contents. You should fast for 12 hours before a special test breakfast will be given you. One-half hour after this special test breakfast the specimens will be taken by the Out-Patient Nurse in Room #134 at about 8 A.M.

*Look
Mon Jan*

INSTRUCTIONS TO PATIENT FOR GASTRIC ANALYSIS: Your Doctor desires a Laboratory Examination made on specimens of your stomach contents. You should fast for 12 hours before a special test breakfast will be given you. One-half hour after this special test breakfast the specimens will be taken by the Out-Patient Nurse in Room #134 at about 8 A.M.

Enclosure Behind File

150

Right now we must be prepared for
 all this. Quoted - hidden out all - it's a
 glorious thing of mine - so what the devil
 would we do about this battle - the
 rebels - or under how much at
 my last surrender - it's then or go
 plant heels & we don't care to do that
 until we get before the new church - after
 that will work all the way well we know
 anything. We have been much improved
 from George's progress - and did feel that
 Charles in the year - all's gone - and
 was of him - but I thought the Circle

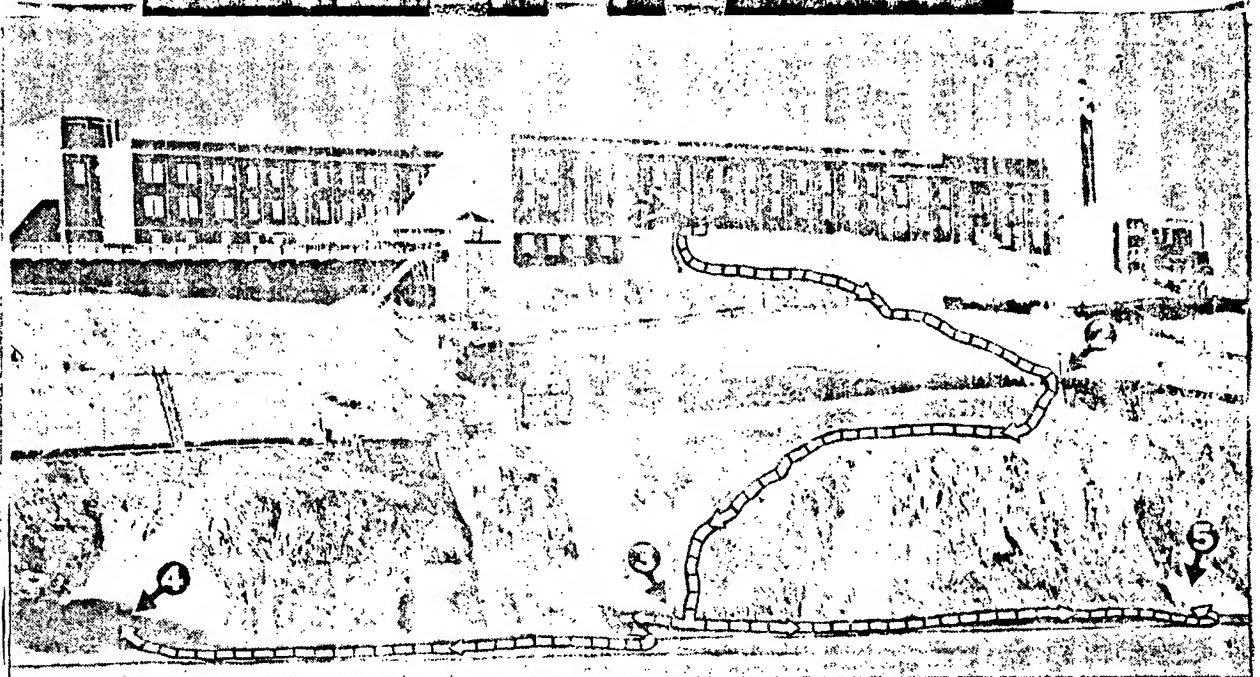
with the new man. I thought of my
 spiritually - and for stroke. I thought
 of my father - and I thought of a new
 thing - but then, who can tell? and
 that's part of my life now - I am
 mostly concerned with James & Mary
 & Janet Bryan, who are all here -
 you like your fine melody - and
 Nelson & Edy. D. & L. & M. - that's all - it
 was a tall - but not good - but
 bad - even when I played that Piano
 both ends of the church - and
 then I would have all the

Why can't stop?

So the radio Cyndiegraph is done
and I'm afraid the present will be
but one thing with the Player Graph
I got here with a letter from a female
Operator who wants to work here - rather
Jack here is assistant Chief here, seemed
to know nothing of my old friends here
from the old Spanish Company & Radio
Club paper work - when I saw the
program, I was much in a hurry
and I left with his my best
Lamar was taking to pull him down
the River - (Did you ever hear of
Hep and Ray? I thought he was - & I guess
Jack on the radio felt in a hurry
to leave (not camp) & I hope - plenty -
no lightning bolts, etc - I hope
we shall be surprised to get back
for how often we can we get
the best turned on?
What I am trying to get
it is - we have to Player & a

10.
 God and Mother to fill
 it with joy & comfort that this well
 built new town, in itself
 food & hope & plans for some-
 thing in these parts - but what
 should our plans be - well
 they are most generous - yet
 think what a wonderful
 it will be! And to get a right
 good place by its influence
 from our former friends
 England, America, and many of
 world's admirers, express our
 gratitude for that letter & stamp
 you will not try - but
 your mind will come
 in the end, no doubt.

Phonetic



THWARTED—Here's how the Alcatraz escape attempt failed. The five felon made way through window (1), then ran down hill (2) and clambered down rocks (3). Arthur "Doc" Barker and Dale Gribble were also aboard the raft. Captain Rufus McCain and other guards made way along beach to point (4) where they were ordered to attempt to build rafts of driftwood. Condemned William Martin was captured (5) as he sought to take his clothing to be together a driftwood raft so he could make his escape in the dense bay fog. —Photography San Francisco Examiner

Monday 11 Am
After The Mail.

Myden Goele

All I can remember
 gratefully is that Penn
 did - like a zeppelin from
 the lower left - like a
 support to the condemned
 which my foot and leg
 on the Rock throne then
 just he held up from
 leaning again. Naturally I
 must have been that
 you will absolutely correct
 my screwy stuff - & all
 the putrid situation finally
 for a bit. I am looking back
 because up here they have
 let it be the end of the
 war and peace. And then

Better than all the fun - you
 can't keep it all - you
 know, there is something
 to be said for the fact that
 one's friends are not
 always with one in one's
 life - and that is true -
 for the matter, we can't
 be sure that we are
 not going to be
 separated from any one
 of our friends - and
 that is a fact -

Dear friends, the Boston
Anti-Slavery Journal has
been published for some
time - and while the
paper is in circulation the
Benevolent Society has
been engaged in
the cause of the
free people of color.

the mouth, until some
birds up & swallow some
with the result they had to
be taken open to get it out.
So now this ten-foot (12)
tube is packed three or four
times with a fusible powder =
nitro-glycerine the more rapid
it flies - then goes off a
certain distance - enough
to leave at there about 10-15
minutes, and then ejects it
so that upon contact does
sprinkle earthly good - enough
more Melba, Blandy, Blandy,
O. T. C. Arrangement, Blandy, Blandy,
Blandy, was in the original
arrangement. When we
went there there in the British
Club in 1920-21 we had to
enter to be all the while, etc.
We were always looking to do it.

[illegible]

Morning when the crew for
home reluctantly began the
coming of the fog - must be
near Cape Cod for the anchor
reaper bay regions & little
drifted out there the "Edith"
Bate - on the beach and the
crew is showing, later the
bay and the fog had lost
the Bate & the Edith Bate.
In so far as I can
know all well with the land
Lady - that's just well -
my father. I'm not sure
whether or not my so-
called relatives will come
to see me - in my letter to
my nephew I'm frequently
blasted out the night of the
brother, now with the "Edith"

Cynplan (Pluto) became
 best admitt'd father only
 the women in the
 present myself. I frequently
 let them know I was
 for a spirit of conversation
 or perhaps they got tired
 of me. I would be better
 suited to the conversation and
 that may be the best. I don't
 like to be too much
 otherwise - I wouldn't want
 to see that better - perhaps
 to see I don't
 (I don't know the general
 nature of the case - I don't know
 any of the other people
 for the - I don't know the
 nature of the case - I don't know

Keep your fingers crossed - and
your feet too - as you walk
together up to the platform
where the departure must be
for a completely fitting fare-
welling lunch with happy
"Aloha" Bells - and the
"Aloha" Bells - and the
"Aloha" Bells - and the

[illegible]

Jobs would be here about
Retreating = 100000 miles
in the dark as you fall asleep
your examinations = one
retire who come here on the 2nd
of January. Leaves coming in
the end of this week - on it
figure around 20 to 25
deep = angles by this time
You will have had a lot
of information re what
they're doing - as we know the
high California market position
and with much coffee & 2
peeling - you'll see your share
but not that the whole
in the whole - national average =
probably for the best
water & 1/2 to 1/3 of it 14500
to 15000. The first week will be
Calder (big) for 100000

RAG:DF

76-4175 -26

February 8, 1939

RECORDED

35391

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated January 26, 1939, in which you inclosed a letter and papers which you received from the Los Angeles Office concerning information furnished by Miss Frances Hald.

In accordance with your request there are attached hereto two photostatic copies of these documents. The Los Angeles Office, to which copies of this communication are also being directed, is likewise being furnished with two photostatic copies of the documents furnished that office by Miss Frances Hald.

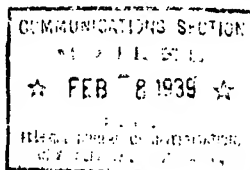
Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

INDEXED
DATE 2/15/39
45

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Quinn _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Quinn _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____

Inclosure
cc Los Angeles (Inclosure)



Handwritten signatures and initials, including a large 'J' and 'H' and a signature 'c-160'.

(Escaped Federal Prisoner)
SUBJECT Arthur Barker (Heath of)

FILE NUMBER 76-4175

SECTION NUMBER 2

SERIALS 27-41

TOTAL PAGES 61

PAGES RELEASED 50

PAGES WITHHELD 11

EXEMPTION(S) USED B3 B7C B7D B7E

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

San Francisco, California
January 26, 1939

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Cowley	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Foxworth	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. McGuire	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER alias "DOC"
(DECEASED), ETAL. ESCAPED
FEDERAL PRISONERS

On January 23, 1939 Special Agents A. E. FARLAND and J. E. RICE, while at Alcatraz, conferred with Warden JOHNSTON and asked whether or not there had been any new developments since their last visit, and the Warden stated there had been none. This question was asked the Warden for the very purpose of seeing whether or not he would tell us what we already knew regarding certain things found in the search and shake-down which is still continuing at Alcatraz.

It was learned confidentially that during the check-up that has been going on since the escape, five bars in the Hospital were found to have been sawed. This information has come to us from several confidential sources but the Warden has not seen fit to tell us and we have not questioned him point-blank concerning this discovery.

I have also learned that it is the general opinion among the guards, with the exception of a few, that nothing will come of the investigation made by Mr. BENNETT, and their opinion is that the investigation is nothing more or less than a "white wash".

I have delayed in advising you this information developed because I had hoped to get something definite for you, and get corroboration if possible regarding this somewhat general information, but to date I have not been able to substantiate these statements positively and wanted you to have the information we have developed to date. I know that you appreciate our position in not being able to give you better corroborated information because these men will say a few words and then refuse to say any more; they are afraid of their jobs, they know certain guards will go to higher

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

76-4175-27

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 31 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WILSON TAMI FUG SUE NICHOLS

COPIES DESTROYED
215 SEP 9 1966

RECEIVED COPIES FILED IN 62-29976-200

Director
P & C RE ARTHUR E.
BARKER etal.


Jan. 26, 1939

authorities if it is ascertained they have furnished us information, all of which makes it difficult for us to substantiate, unless we are going in on a direct investigation.

The investigation which we have been conducting at the request of Mr. BENNETT, looking to the possible connection of Guard [REDACTED], has not materialized, and a report will be submitted as soon as the Los Angeles Office has completed its investigation at [REDACTED] California, but I wanted you to know that nothing of import has shown up. b7c

Undoubtedly the newspaper clippings have reached you by this time reflecting the criticism being directed at the administration of the Island, by city officials in San Francisco.

Very truly yours,


N. J. L. PIEPER,
Special Agent in Charge

NJLP:KLA
AIRMAIL

76-347

Unwanted Alcatraz

A CORONER'S jury urges the Government to find a "more suitable location" than Alcatraz Island to imprison its worst murderers, kidnapers, jail-breaking wizards, gangsters and "income tax evaders."

As Coroner Leland says in behalf of San Franciscans, "We don't like it and we don't want it"—and we never have. The inquest into the recent escape plot shows Alcatraz is not "impregnable" against the super-cunning of the men caged there. The Rock is dynamite in our Bay!

Won't Uncle Sam find a better place for these men? Devil's Island?

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS
FORWARDED BY
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

JAN 26 1935

76-4175-27

163

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 28, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER alias
"DOC" BARKER (deceased)
ET AL.
Escaped Federal Prisoners.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the personal and confidential letter of January 23, 1939, pertaining to the whereabouts of [REDACTED] a guard at Alcatraz. b7c

On January 26, 1939, Special Agent G. V. DIERST contacted [REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] with whom this office has had previous satisfactory dealings, advised that he was well acquainted with [REDACTED] having previously resided at [REDACTED] and that he presently has a brother living in [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] advised that he could definitely state that [REDACTED] was in [REDACTED] on December 26th, January 2nd and January 15th. During the intervening times, [REDACTED] stated he saw [REDACTED] around [REDACTED] but could not fix any particular dates as to these other occasions. He stated he did not believe that [REDACTED] during the period of time mentioned in the reference letter, was away from [REDACTED] for any extended visit, but that he may have gone to [REDACTED] or thereabouts. b7d b7c

INDEXED

[REDACTED] suggested to Agent DIERST that [REDACTED] was very reliable and could possibly furnish information with other information concerning [REDACTED] b7d b7c

FEB 2 1939

[REDACTED] was contacted and stated that the first he saw [REDACTED] was on either Christmas Day or the day before, and that for the next three weeks, he saw him around town on an average of at least four or five times a week, in company with [REDACTED] b7d b7c [REDACTED] advised that he is quite positive [REDACTED] was not away from [REDACTED] during the three-week period, although his observations of him were merely seeing him around the streets and with his brother.

PAGE 2
SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

Re: ARTHUR E. BARKER

1-28-39

b7d
b7c
Agent DIERST, during the conversations, requested [redacted] and [redacted] to treat this inquiry with utmost confidence, and was assured by both that it would be treated confidentially.

In view of the information developed above, and the fact that [redacted] is only a small town, and that [redacted] is well known in that community, it was believed best not to make further inquiry for fear that it might become known that an investigation was being conducted, and in a town the size of [redacted], such information would spread rapidly. Therefore, no further investigation at [redacted] will be conducted unless otherwise requested by the office of origin.

The Los Angeles Office is presently carrying out the other leads requested in this case, and such information will be reported in the near future.

Very truly yours,

GVD:AB
76-454

CC BUREAU

VAL C. ZIMMER
Special Agent in Charge

U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation

San Francisco, California
January 20, 1939.

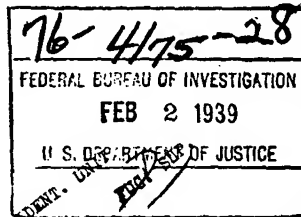
Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Re: ARTHUR E. BARKER, with alias,
Et AL - ESCAPED FEDERAL
PRISONERS

Dear Sir:

Kindly furnish the known criminal record of the following:

Name (inc. aliases)	City, Police Arrest, or Other Number.	Approximate Date Fingerprints for- warded Bureau of Investigation.	Fingerprint Classifica- tion.
✓ DALE STAMPHILL	Alcatraz Peniten- tiary No. 435		
✓ ARTHUR E. BARKER alias "DOC"	Alcatraz Peniten- tiary No. 268		
✓ WILLIAM MARTIN	Alcatraz Peniten- tiary No. 370		
✓ HENRY YOUNG	RECORDED Alcatraz Peniten- tiary No. 244		
✓ RUFUS MCCAIN	Alcatraz Peniten- tiary No. 262		



Very truly yours,

N.J.L. Pieper
N.J.L. PIEPER
Special Agent in Charge.

JHR:LR
76-347

Reply
OK
2-1-39

QT

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

10 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) B3; Title 28; U.S.C. 534 with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
Arthur Barker 76-4175-28

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

San Francisco, California
January 19, 1939

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Carson	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Gurnea	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Hendon	✓
Mr. Jones	✓
Mr. Mumford	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Mr. Gandy	✓

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER alias "DOC";
DALE STAMPHILL, RUFUS MCCAIN,
HENRY YOUNG, WILLIAM MARTIN.
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

I am enclosing herewith two completed photographic albums portraying the recent attempted escape of the above named prisoners, from the U. S. Penitentiary at Alcatraz on January 13, 1939. These albums have been prepared at the telephonic request of the Director.

It will be noted that we have changed the set-up in the books a little, attempting to make them more attractive. We have included in the album the map of the Island, which is pertinent to the investigation of this case, and a photostatic copy of the cell blocks, which is the only diagram we have, the original having been forwarded to the Bureau.

It is suggested that the Bureau, in order to make this album more complete, might wish to include the photographs of the escaping prisoners, and in view of our desire to expedite the transmittal of this volume to the Bureau, no photographs were obtained at the Island since copies were not readily available.

We would appreciate the Bureau sending us a photograph of each of the prisoners involved so that we can include these in our album.

RECORDED & INDEXED

The different type of cover for the album was necessitated because no others were available of the type heretofore forwarded.

FEB 2 1939

Very truly yours,

J. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
N. J. L. PIERCE
Special Agent in Charge

NJLP:MLA
769347
Enclosures

One album detached
album filed behind file
Bulky Enclave - disposed of
- notation on memo 1/26/39
Rosen dated 4/26/50

This should be done at once.

EN 1/23/39

One album detached

NY

album filed behind file

168

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

San Francisco, California
February 2, 1939

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

PERSONAL ATTENTION

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

RE: ARTHUR BARKER (DECEASED),
ETAL. ESCAPED FEDERAL
PRISONERS

I am forwarding herewith two sets of
three additional photographs which we feel will
complete the albums heretofore transmitted.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. Pieper
N. J. L. PIEPER,
Special Agent in Charge

NJLP:MLA
76-347
Enclosures/6

*Copy photos to Barker
3rd album for #79
2-10-39*

62-29676 255

*Copies placed in Director's
album. 10/2 2-8-39*

76-4175-30
TOLSON
FEB 10 1939
169

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
FEBRUARY 11, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER, alias DOC, et al
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

Sheriff HAROLD L. WILEY, Fairview, Oklahoma, called at this office and advised he had noticed in the newspapers an account of an attempted escape from the Federal Penitentiary at Alcatraz Island. He stated that DALE STANPHILL has two brothers, GLEN and WELLEN, who are believed [redacted] and it is known that they have been at San Francisco, California for some time. b7c

This information is furnished to you as having a possible bearing on the investigation presently being made by your office of the attempted escape. It is possible that these two individuals visited their brother at the penitentiary prior to the attempted escape.

The Sheriff advised he believed he could secure their address in San Francisco, California, if the same would be of value; that the father of these boys is a respected citizen and is an engineer for the Santa Fe Railroad.

Very truly yours,

H. B. FLETCHER
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

HBF:cc
cc - Bureau

76-4175
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 14 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
REC'D

SJT:JMC:MC

February 5, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to articles appearing in various newspapers throughout the country containing information furnished by one P. V. Reed, a former inmate of Alcatraz. Two copies of an article which appeared in the Chicago Herald and Examiner on January 15, 1939, are transmitted herewith.

The Bureau desires that you note the contents of this article which undoubtedly was published also in San Francisco papers and which contains information to the effect that numerous hack saw blades are allegedly in the possession of convicts in the United States Penitentiary at Alcatraz Island; that guards consistently and regularly sleep on duty; that they drink on occasions, et cetera.

The Bureau believes it desirable that Mr. Reed be interviewed and in this connection it is requested that you ascertain his present whereabouts and, if in your district, conduct the necessary interview. If in another field division, you should furnish the necessary background to the Special Agent in Charge and request that the interview be conducted and the Bureau promptly advised.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

76-4175-31
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 6 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEB - 3 1939
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Inclosure

1 ENCL. T

62-5-10-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100

Ex-Inmate's Story— ALCATRAZ PRISON FULL OF SAWS

Convicts Outwit Electric Eye for Detecting Metals, Reed Reveals

While prison authorities sought solution of how Arthur ("Doc") Barker of Chicago, former Public Enemy No. 1, and four other convicts were able to saw their way out of Alcatraz cells, P. F. Reed, former convict, declares that despite all precautions dozens of saws are circulating among the prison colony.

Barker was slain in his attempt to escape, but only after he was clear of the cell block. This article, first of two by the author of "Murder on Alcatraz," who spent four years on the island, again lifts the lid.

BY P. F. REED.

Special to The Herald and Examiner.
(Copyright, 1936, by Hearst Publications, Inc.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14.—The electric stool pigeons you have heard so much about are a long way from fool proof.

And Uncle Sam, who spent plenty of money to make the Rock briar proof, economized on hack saw blades.

That is the reason Arthur ("Doc") Barker of Chicago, one of the worst troublemakers and agitators they've ever had out on the Rock, is dead and the bars on five cell doors will have to be fixed.

Barker, "Casey" Young, Rufus McCain, Rale Stamp-hill and Bill Martin sawed their way out of their cells—or had the sawing done for them—with blades that have been floating around the "stir" for more than two years.

I was working in the butcher shop about June, 1936, when a guard-mechanic came in to fix a compressor that broke down and flooded the joint.

He was a loud-mouthed, loose-tipped screw. He told me that he'd lost a package of new hack saw blades. He said the ones the government furnished him weren't

Mr. Tolson.....	✓
Mr. Nathan.....	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....	✓
Mr. Clegg.....	
Mr. Coffey.....	
Mr. Crowl.....	
Mr. Egan.....	
Mr. Foxworth.....	
Mr. Glavin.....	
Mr. Harbo.....	
Mr. Keith.....	
Mr. Lester.....	
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....	
Mr. Tracy.....	
Miss Gandy.....	

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

76-4175-31

1-15-38 172

py good and he bought some of his own. Then he lost them.

The loss was never reported because he was afraid of what would happen. And he never located them. They've been circulating ever since. There's a hundred places around the cell-house, particularly in the kitchen basement, where they could have been planted.

It would be a simple matter to get the blades into the cell block from the kitchen. How? Simply by plastering them to the recessed bottom of the slop cans which frequently pass from the kitchen into the cell block. Even sandwiches have been brought in that way.

Belts Offer Easy Hiding Place

Any of the kitchen help or the cellhouse runners who have access to the cell block after 8:30 in the morning could have carried the blades in. The kitchen help are allowed to wear belts, and it would be easy for them to slip the top of their pants, stick in a couple of blades and cinch their belts up tight.

When they go through the door, they get only a rough fan. For that matter, the blades could have been carried in inside their shoe soles. Silt the seam of a worn shoe sole and slip a blade into the leather—as simple as that.

The blades could have been carried indefinitely without serious danger. In the first place there isn't a mechanical stool pigeon between the kitchen and the cell block. But even if there had been, it would have been safe enough.

I bet Alvey T. Anderson one time he couldn't carry metal through one of them and he won. He carried a half-inch steel bar about a foot long through the gadget, and it didn't let out a chirp. Another time a mechanic twice packed a crescent wrench through two stool pigeons, and the machines didn't turn a whisker.

Saws Held Capable of Cutting Bars

As for the cell and window bars being impregnable to hack saw blades—that's a lot of baloney. I have been able to vouch for that ever since I drew my first cell assignment. I was parked in the center block and after a short residence discovered one of the bars sawed through a quarter of the way. I squawked for a cell change pronto. I had no desire to be present when the thing was discovered.

Another sample that didn't get publicity showed up in the hospital late in 1937. Somebody sawed his way through a window bar. It was prepared for six months before they hauled in a welding outfit and fixed it up. Then it wasn't discovered. An old con, whom I understand was later transferred to Springfield, put the finger on it.

They never did explain where those hack saw blades came from, but they were floating all over the joint.

Quietness of Work Called a Mystery

When the stir went up over there, they talked a lot about how the bars would resist any hack saw blades. If that's the case, why are they so worried about

hack blades getting loose?

The blades and the bars would have been a mark for any con in the place. But the real question is how they got the bars sawed without being seen or heard by the cell-block guards.

I can figure only one answer to that one. The screws went to sleep.

There are always two of them on duty on the catwalks at the ends of the cell block, day and night, one at each end. At night there's a floor guard who's supposed to make the rounds of the tiers every half hour. A lieutenant is in and out all night long.

During the day, two guards are on the floor and there is always one on each catwalk. All, unless they fall asleep or just don't want to see, have a full view of the block. The walls are as bare as a pool table and as light as day in both ends and down the side corridors.

I've seen a guard on the catwalk dead to the world. I came out of the kitchen at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and you could hear him snoring all over the block. There he sat with his feet propped up on the bars of the cellhouse side.

Any con could have stepped up on a desk below the catwalk and snatched the gun. He snored right on, with his mouth open, through all the noise of the con walking down the tiers on their way to take a bath.

Another time, twenty-five or thirty cons in the kitchen saw a screw in the tower snoring away. They could look through the kitchen window and see him with his head tilted back next to the telephone as he snored. Hear him yell if it rains.

That happened so many times

later, the kitchen help used to kid him. He'd say he was being laid so good he was getting so fat he couldn't help it. He weighed 140 when he came in on the bum and weighed 235 when he left. He was the guy who lost the blades.

To get from their cells to the window they went through, those five cons had to pass down a long corridor, turn a corner within twenty feet of the catwalk screw and then go through a locked wire gate.

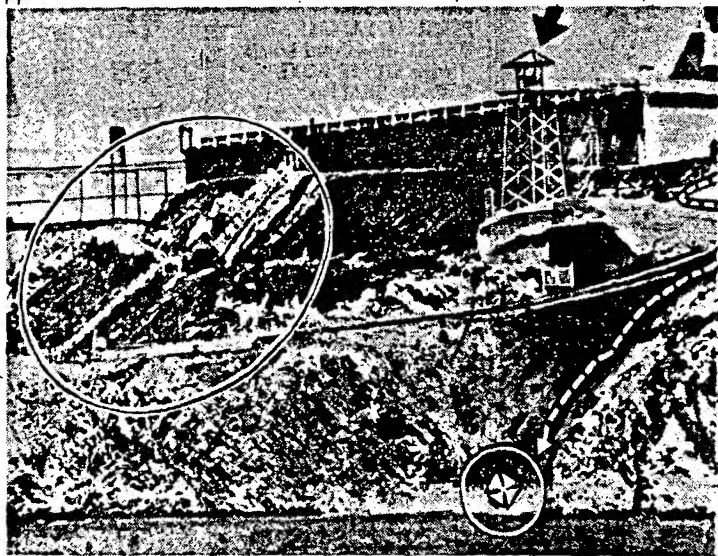
You tell me how they got a key to that gate and maybe I'll tell you how they did it without being seen or heard when it's so quiet a cough sounds like a cannon shot.

Although it's strictly against the rules, some of the guards over there have been known to drink. But they wouldn't all be drunk at once. I'm certain no federal employe could be fixed, although one free man was canned for bringing money in to the cons along late in 1935.

There was a heavy fog when the boys went out. That gives the outside crew an out, even though the cons had to parade through an oscillating searchlight as bright as a battleship's. They had to dodge a car which patrols the island all night with two guards.

(Another of the series of stories about Alcatraz by P. F. Reed, author of "Murder on Alcatraz," will appear in The Herald and Examiner tomorrow.)

Path of Barker Break



LINE SHOWS ROUTE TAKEN BY FLEEING CONVICTS

X marks spot of capture; in circle are prisoners going to cells

Los Angeles, California
February 3, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

~~PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Re: ARTHUR E. BARKER, alias Doc (deceased);
DALE STAMPHILL, RUFUS MCCAIN, HENRY
YOUNG, WILLIAM MARTIN;
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS.

Dear Sir:-

Reference is made to letter from San Francisco to Los Angeles dated January 23, 1939, requesting information concerning [redacted]. The following investigation concerning the activities of [redacted] was made by Special Agent G. V. Dierst.

In connection with the investigation of [redacted] it was noted in Los Angeles Division file [redacted] entitled [redacted] with aliases - [redacted] that [redacted] formerly was associated with [redacted] subject of that file, and [redacted] was interviewed under the pretext that [redacted] and during the interview he was questioned as to his activities in such a way that he believed the purpose of the interview was [redacted]. Details of the information which he furnished [redacted] will be reported separately in the above-mentioned case.

[redacted] advised that he had been born and raised in [redacted] California, and had come to Los Angeles about six years ago, and since coming to Los Angeles he had been in the bookie business; that his parents, as well as his brother, still reside in San Francisco, his father being [redacted] and his brother [redacted].

[redacted] stated that he had not been to San Francisco since about February 1938, and on that occasion he drove his father back to San Francisco from Los Angeles, his father having made an extended holiday visit with [redacted] in Los Angeles. On this occasion, he advised, he arrived in San Francisco one evening and left late the next day, and at that time stayed with his brother, [redacted]. As to other absences from Los Angeles during the past year, [redacted] advised that approximately six months ago he made a one-day trip to Delano, California, to see about the purchase of a cafe, but negotiations ended without any deal having been made. He also stated that several months ago he had made a trip to Chula Vista, California, to look after some gambling interests, and that about three weeks ago he had made a trip to Agua Caliente, Mexico. Beyond this, he stated, he could not recall of his being out of the Los Angeles area.

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Page 2.

SAC, San Francisco

Re: ARTHUR E. BARKER

Los Angeles
2-3-39

[redacted] also mentioned that on previous occasions while in San Francisco he stopped at the New Fillmore Hotel, which is a residential hotel near [redacted] residence, but on his last trip to San Francisco in February 1938 he did not stop at this hotel. b7C

During the conversation, when [redacted] was being questioned as to possible parties whom [redacted] of the case mentioned might contact in San Francisco, he advised that [redacted] probably would visit in the vicinity of Hall and Ellis Streets where the gambling element of San Francisco hang out, and that the only specific name which he could recall as to individuals well in the gambling and underworld circles was a NICK CONSANTINE, whom he stated he had not seen for the past eight or nine years. He also mentioned the name of BILL LYONS and the MC DONOUGH brothers, bail bond brokers. In this connection he stated that his San Francisco contacts were rather limited because of the long period of time he had been absent from San Francisco and the infrequency of his visits there. b7C

During the past two years [redacted] advised, he had resided at [redacted] and had moved from there to the [redacted] about two weeks ago, inasmuch as so much pressure had been placed on bookies recently in Los Angeles, he having been arrested twice within the past six weeks. b7C

Agent Dierst, under the same pretext as used in the interview with [redacted] contacted [redacted] b7D

[redacted] advised that [redacted] had resided on the second floor of that building for the past two years until recently, and that the only time she knew of his being away from Los Angeles was about a year ago when he drove his father to San Francisco, and also in about July 1938 when [redacted] took a week's vacation and went to Reno, Nevada. She further advised that from time to time [redacted] would have numerous people at his apartment but they were always very quiet, and she never became acquainted with any of them. b7C

[redacted] also stated that the apartment originally was rented by a woman who gave her name as [redacted] and that after being in the apartment a very short time [redacted] moved in. She stated she did not believe this was [redacted] wife, but inasmuch as they were good tenants and always paid their rent and did not make any noise, she had never inquired into their personal lives, and it was her understanding that a few weeks ago this [redacted] who represented herself to be the wife of [redacted] was supposed to have gone to Chicago. b7C

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Page 3.

SAC, San Francisco

Re: ARTHUR E. BARKER

Los Angeles

2-3-39

b7c
b7d

Agent Dierst, in location [redacted] contacted [redacted] and who also is mentioned in [redacted]. During Agent Dierst's interview with [redacted] concerning [redacted] activities were discussed and [redacted] stated he saw [redacted] on an average of at least two or three times a week, and during the past six or eight months did not know of [redacted] having been out of the Los Angeles area, and further, he did not know of any contacts which [redacted] had in San Francisco.

As to the information obtained from [redacted] however, it might be noted that [redacted] is the typical [redacted] and while he seemed to be in a cooperative mood there is doubt as to what extent his information can be relied upon.

There being no further investigation in this territory, this case is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin.

Very truly yours,

VAL C. ZIMMER
Special Agent in Charge

QVD:ES
76-454

2cc Bureau
cc L. A. File [redacted]

b7c

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO. 76-347

REPORT MADE AT San Francisco	DATE WHEN MADE 2/4/39	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/18, 19-21, 23, 27, 31/39	REPORT MADE BY J. E. RICE - MLA
TITLE ARTHUR E. BARKER alias DOC, (Deceased), DALE STAMPHILL, RUFUS McCAIN, HENRY YOUNG, WILLIAM MARTIN			CHARACTER OF CASE ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JAMES BENNETT, Director of Bureau of Prisons, requested confidential investigation of one [REDACTED] employed as prison guard at Alcatraz, particularly as to his activities during Dec. 1938 and Jan. 1939 when he was on annual leave. Information developed at San Francisco reflects name furnished by Director BENNETT as [REDACTED] probably SFPD [REDACTED] inquiry of [REDACTED] who know [REDACTED] reveals he was recently released from Folsom State Prison and last heard of at Los Angeles. PAT SULLIVAN reported to be conducting rooming houses Mission District, San Francisco, father of HARRY SULLIVAN, now serving sentence at Alcatraz as #198. No further information obtained from prison authorities at Alcatraz.

- P -

DETAILS:

This is a joint report of Special Agent A. E. FARLAND and reporting Agent.

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

This investigation is predicated upon an oral request made by JAMES BENNETT, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, during

*Memo Bureau of Prisons
2/8/39 Reg.*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Los Angeles 3 - San Francisco COPIES DESTROYED 216 SEP 9 1966	76-4175-32	FEB 9 1939
	FEB 8 - A.M.	

*cc Bureau of Prisons
2-8-39*

his recent visit at Alcatraz with reference to the attempted escape on January 13, 1939 by subjects in this case. Mr. BENNETT requested investigation based on confidential information furnished him by certain inmates whose names he did not divulge to the effect that Prison Guard [REDACTED] had probably aided in the escape of subjects. b7c

Mr. BENNETT stated he had obtained confidentially from one of these individuals information that [REDACTED] had been "kiting" information for BARKER and possibly others; that his information was that [REDACTED] was to help or had helped in making a contact ashore for BARKER and his companions. [REDACTED] left the prison on annual leave on December 23, 1938 and returned from leave and reported for duty on January 16, 1939. [REDACTED] claimed his home was in [REDACTED] and that that was where he spent his vacation. b7c

Mr. BENNETT'S information further was that [REDACTED] was getting the payoff and had made arrangements with someone, name unknown, at the Senator Hotel at Reno, Nevada; that the Ford Apartments located at 3rd and Mission Streets, San Francisco, are operated by one PAT SULLIVAN, who is reported to own that apartment building and several others in that vicinity and that a former convict named [REDACTED] out of Leavenworth Annex, is a friend of SULLIVAN. The information was that [REDACTED] was making a contact with SULLIVAN and [REDACTED] at the Ford Apartments; that SULLIVAN and [REDACTED] might possibly be the payoff for BARKER. Mr. BENNETT'S information was that PAT SULLIVAN had formerly been connected with the San Francisco Police Department. b7c

The records at the penitentiary reflect that [REDACTED] worked several nights in the cell block. b7c

HAROLD FONTAINE'S (Alcatraz 53) [REDACTED] reported to reside at [REDACTED] has been receiving mail from FONTAINE which was "kited" out of the prison. Mr. BENNETT further stated that FONTAINE had talked to him and stated that he wanted to get a letter from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] that if [REDACTED] had received mail from FONTAINE, MR. BENNETT states the mail was "kited" as FONTAINE has not had mail privileges for the past 18 months. FONTAINE has applied for mail privileges.

Mr. BENNETT requested that [redacted] the [redacted] and [redacted] be discreetly interviewed for the purpose of asking them whether they had heard from HAROLD FONTAINE, Alcatraz 53, without asking them, unless necessary, whether they had received any mail from HAROLD and when, and again stated that if they had heard from him in the past 18 months, the letters they received were "kited". Mr. BENNETT also requested that if [redacted] were located, to ask [redacted] had been in St. Louis and where [redacted] was located. He stated FONTAINE told him plainly he believed prison authorities were holding out on his mail. b7c

With regard to the above request, no leads are being set out at this time, unless instructed to the contrary by the Bureau, in view of the fact that the investigation has disclosed that Mr. BENNETT'S source of information probably was unreliable. Further, it is not believed that a general investigation looking to possible mail-kiting activities of any of the prison personnel would be of particular value in this investigation.

Mr. BENNETT stated a former inmate's [redacted] address not given (inmate being named LOOMIS) had received a payoff for some favor extended and had written a letter to AL CAPONE, believing it came from him, thanking him for the money. Mr. BENNETT stated this letter received was a "kite". b7c

Mr. BENNETT further stated the records reflect ALFRED M. LOOMIS was transferred from Alcatraz December 2, 1935 to Leavenworth; that his minimum discharge date was December 14, 1935 and that he has since been involved in further trouble and is now reported to be an inmate at the Folsom State Prison, Repressa, Calif. He requested that the records of that prison be examined and that LOOMIS' [redacted] address be obtained, so [redacted] might be interviewed. b7c

This lead will likewise not be covered, unless instructed by the Bureau to the contrary, for the same reasons as set out hereinabove.

Director BENNETT further stated that [redacted] may have had dealings with Guard [redacted] to contact PHIL RYAN, one of [redacted] pals while he was in prison. The records reflect that PHIL RYAN has since been transferred to the Prison for Defective Delinquents located at Springfield, Missouri. b7c

A further request was made by Mr. BENNETT to ascertain whether [redacted] who resides [redacted] has a post office box in the Post Office at San Francisco, or possibly Oakland, although he said nothing about Oakland. b7c

At the U. S. Civil Service Bureau, Mr. BRADFORD, in charge of records, was interviewed on January 20, 1939, for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not [redacted] had on file at that office an application for the position of guard, or for any other position. Mr. BRADFORD stated, after making a careful examination of his files, that there was no record of this individual in their files and that the files of his office include the entire 12th Civil Service district. He stated the records for [redacted] could be obtained in Washington, D. C., at the Civil Service Bureau where [redacted] photograph and record would be on file. b7c

[redacted] discreet inquiries were made by Agents for the purpose of ascertaining whether one PATRICK J. SULLIVAN, a former police officer, known to be operator at this time of the Ford apartments at 957 Mission Street [redacted] Inquiries were made of [redacted] stated SULLIVAN was the owner of a number of apartments and that he operates the following at present, all being in San Francisco: b7c b7d

Grand Central Apts., 1412 Market Street
Hale Hotel, 939 Mission Street
Hillsdale Hotel, 51 6th Street
Mint Hotel, 141 5th Street
Potter Hotel, 1288 Mission Street
Thomas Apt. Hotel, 971 Mission Street

[redacted] further stated that the Mint and Ford are havens for ex-convicts and members of the underworld and that PAT SULLIVAN is a man about 73 years of age; that he was formerly connected with the San Francisco PD. as nearly as they could recall [redacted] b7c b7d

[redacted] They stated he is believed to be well fixed financially; that he has a son, HARRY SULLIVAN, now serving a sentence in Alcatraz on a charge of robbing the U. S. Mails with firearms.

[redacted] inquiries were made as to whether or not they knew one [redacted] reported to be very friendly with PAT SULLIVAN, and reported to be an ex-convict. [redacted] b7c b7d
[redacted] stated he did not know anyone by that name but did know [redacted] an ex-convict. [redacted] it was ascertained that [redacted] formerly served in the McNeil Island Penitentiary, his number there being [redacted] he also has a record in the Los Angeles Police Department, their number [redacted] San Francisco PD number is [redacted]

[REDACTED] b7c b7d

[REDACTED] was recently released from Folsom State Prison and last heard of at Los Angeles where he was running a book and beer joint and has not been seen in or around San Francisco for over a year by [REDACTED] who are well acquainted with him; [REDACTED]

At Alcatraz the records reflect HARRY SULLIVAN, AZ 198, is now serving a sentence of 25 years on a charge of robbery of U. S. Mails with firearms, having been sentenced to 25 years on January 19, 1929 from the Northern District of California at San Francisco; he was received at Alcatraz from Leavenworth on September 4, 1934; for infraction of prison regulations he forfeited 3,000 days good time due him on November 3, 1930. The records reflect his minimum date for discharge as November 1, 1945, and the maximum date as January 27, 1954. His record for visitors reflects he is visited by his mother or father practically every month; that Mrs. P. J. SULLIVAN, who gives as addresses 299 Dolores Street and 890 Hayes Street, both San Francisco, visited him on October 18, 1938 and December 15, 1938. No other dates were given for her visits but the records reflect that either the mother or the father visit him once a month.

P. J. SULLIVAN, who gives his addresses as 85 4th Street and 936 Mission Street, both San Francisco, visited him September 15, 1938, November 15, 1938, and January 19, 1939.

Agents made discreet inquiries at the Post Office through the Inspectors' Office to ascertain whether or not [REDACTED] had a box at the Main Post Office, the Ferry Post Office, or in the Customs House; also in Oakland, California, all with negative results. It was ascertained that [REDACTED] does not receive mail through General Delivery at any of these offices. These inquiries were made in view of the fact that information furnished Mr. BENNETT was to the effect that [REDACTED] was possibly "kiting" letters out of the penitentiary and bringing "kites" into Alcatraz. b7c

While at Alcatraz on other official matter, Agent A. E. FARLAND made inquiries of Warden J. A. JOHNSTON for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not there were any new developments in the investigation being conducted in connection with the escape of BARKER, ETAL, and Warden JOHNSTON advised there were none. On January 31st reporting agent again contacted Warden JOHNSTON relative to any new developments and the Warden again advised he was not in possession of any additional information.

Pending receipt of information from the Los Angeles office as to [REDACTED] no further investigation is being conducted by the San Francisco office. b7c

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE LOS ANGELES OFFICE

Will expedite investigation relating to a discreet inquiry concerning the activities during December and January last of [REDACTED] LAPD [REDACTED] as requested in San Francisco letter dated January 23, 1939. b7c

PENDING

RECORDED

HAQ:JHK
76-4175-32

March 8, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
BUREAU OF PRISONS

Re: Arthur E. Barker, with alias
(deceased); et al; Escaped
Federal Prisoners.

There is attached hereto a copy of the report of Special Agent J. H. Rice, dated at San Francisco, California, February 4, 1939, in connection with the investigation conducted by this Bureau relative to the request made by you during your recent visit to Alcatraz prison.

You will note a lead is included in this report, requesting further investigation concerning the activities of one [redacted] who was subsequently interviewed by an Agent of this Bureau at which time he stated he had not been to San Francisco, California, since February, 1933, at which time he drove his father there from Los Angeles. [redacted] was interviewed under the pretext that [redacted] and during the interview he was questioned as to his activities in such a way that he believed the purpose of the interview was [redacted]. He indicated that his parents as well as his brother still reside in San Francisco, his father being [redacted] who resides at [redacted] and his brother being [redacted] who resides at [redacted].

b7c

b7e

b7c

Investigation conducted concerning this particular matter has not disclosed any irregular activities on the basis of the allegations made. As a result, no further investigation will be conducted by this Bureau relative to the confidential information furnished you by certain inmates of Alcatraz prison.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
RECEIVED
MAR 9 1939
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

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**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

San Francisco, California
February 4, 1939

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Crowl	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Foxworth	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. McIntire	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: ARTHUR E. BARKER alias DOC (Deceased);
DALE STAMPHILL, RUFUS MCCAIN, HENRY
YOUNG, WILLIAM MARTIN. ESCAPED
FEDERAL PRISONERS

Reference is made to the report of Special
Agent J. H. RICE, San Francisco, dated February 4, 1939, and to
Los Angeles letter to this office dated January 28, 1939.

Pursuant to the request of the Director of
the Bureau of Prisons, Mr. James Bennett, investigation based
upon information that he had received from a confidential in-
formant was conducted as set out in reference report and letter.

Mr. Bennett did not desire to disclose the
identity of his informant, unless it was absolutely necessary;
he did state, however, that if it was absolutely necessary the
name of the informant be known, he had instructed Warden J. A.
Johnston at Alcatraz to furnish that information to us. The in-
vestigation as conducted by us discloses the probability that his
informant is unreliable.

The requests to check out the possible mail
"kiting" activities of prison employees were not deemed of import
to this case, and it appeared to us we would just be running out
a prison problem which, at this time, would have no particular
connection with the investigation as it has developed. We also
feel that no further action should be taken with regard to running
out a number of leads looking to possible outside connections of
BARKER, as suggested by the Director of Prisons, because we would
be doing extensive investigation of matters unrelated to the parti-
cular inquiry being made as to the Barker escape. We too are still
not receiving the full confidence of the Warden because we have

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
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Director
P & C re ARTHUR E. BARKER ETAL


February 4, 1939

several times asked him whether or not there have been any new developments and he has stated there have been none; however we do know from confidential sources that during a check-up and shake-down which has been going on since the escape, the prison officials found five bars in the hospital which had been sawed. It seems to us that if the proper spirit was being displayed by the Warden he would tell us of these things, and I do not see why we should conduct a general survey of possible outside leaks on Alcatraz for the Bureau of Prisons, with the display they have given of holding out on us.

I am sure you will agree with us that if we are to make a complete investigation we will have to have all the facts and know everything that is going on, and the matter of discretion as to what is and is not important should be left to us as investigators, and not to the Warden as his desires dictate. We, therefore, are not conducting any further investigation with reference to the phase of inquiry requested by the Director of Prisons, other than the lead set out for the Los Angeles Office in report of reference.

The matters concerning the requests of the Director of Prisons have been included in reference report, and a separate report is being submitted, copies of which will necessarily go to the United States Attorney, on other investigative matters, including the coroner's verdict on Barker's death, and pertinent details which will affect his decision on prosecution.

Very truly yours,


W. J. L. PIEPER
Special Agent in Charge

NJLP:MLA
76-347

Suite 1729, 111 Sutter,
San Francisco, California
February 17, 1939

RE: ARTHUR BARKER w/a (deceased) ETAL
ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

Warden J. A. Johnston,
U. S. Penitentiary,
Alcatraz, California

Dear Warden: ATT: L. O. Mills

Reference is made to letter dated
February 7, 1939, signed by L. O. Mills, Chief
Clerk, requesting three photostatic copies of
declaration sheet signed by ARTHUR R. BARKER.

Please be advised that I have had
photostatic copies made of this sheet and the
original together with the copies are forwarded
herewith to you.

Very truly yours,

M. J. L. PIEPER,
Special Agent in Charge

Race/4

NJLP:MLA
CC BUREAU

76-347

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76-4175-33X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 23 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAN FRANCISCO

REPORT MADE AT SAN FRANCISCO	DATE WHEN MADE 3/21/39	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/7/39	REPORT MADE BY A. E. FARLAND
TITLE ARTHUR E. BARKER alias DOC, (Deceased), DALE STAMPHILL, RUFUS McCAIN, HENRY YOUNG, WILLIAM MARTIN			CHARACTER OF CASE ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Final medical report of death of ARTHUR BARKER Alcatraz Number 268 furnished by ROMNEY M. RITCHIE, Chief Medical Officer Alcatraz which reflects subject BARKER died at 5.40 P.M. 1/13/39. Copy of Coroner's report obtained. U.S. Attorney, San Francisco advises prosecution in this case held in abeyance.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent in Charge
N. J. L. PIEPER, San Francisco,
California, 1/17/39.

DETAILS:

AT ALCATRAZ PENITENTIARY.

DR. ROMNEY M. RITCHIE, Surgeon, Chief Medical Officer, Alcatraz Prison, was interviewed and a request was made for his final report on the death of ARTHUR E. BARKER Number 268, Alcatraz Penitentiary.

DR. RITCHIE furnished a memorandum to the Warden dated 1/14/39 which he signed and this is quoted as follows:

"United States Public Health Service,
U. S. Penitentiary, Alcatraz, California.
January 14, 1939.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3-Bureau 1-St. Paul 1-Oklahoma City 1-Chicago 1-Seattle 1-U.S.A. San Francisco 3-San Francisco		76 475-34	MAR 27 1939
		MAR 27 A.M. FUG. SUB. [initials] [initials]	

MEMORANDUM TO THE WARDEN:

RE: ARTHUR BARKER, 268-A2.

This will inform you that above captioned inmate who came to the hospital yesterday morning with injuries mentioned in a previous memorandum, showed a gradual loss of strength during the day and died at 5.40 PM last night.

When first brought in he was greatly confused but partly conscious and complained of pain in the left leg, which was broken and of being cold. Later on during the morning he was restless in bed and would rally to look around him but made no statement or gave any indication that he understood the situation more than to realize at times his own precarious physical condition. Everything possible was done to improve his condition and DR. E. M. TOWNSEND of the U.S. Marine Hospital was called in consultation. During the afternoon he became more restless and confused and was constantly rolling about in bed. His circulation became weaker more rapidly during the afternoon and his breathing more labored and it was realized that he probably would not survive the night. A spinal puncture revealed a large amount of blood in the Spinal Fluid showing that there was bleeding into the cranial cavity resulting from a skull fracture. His condition showed little change after 3.00 P.M. until 5.30 P.M. when he became rapidly worse and in spite of stimulants died at 5.40 P.M.

Cause of death: Fracture of skull.

Respectfully,

ROMNEY M. RITCHIEY, Surgeon
Chief Medical Officer

This memorandum is being retained in the files of the San Francisco Field Office.

At the Coroner's Office, copy of the findings of the Coroner's Inquest, dated 1/24/39 was obtained which furnishes findings of the Coroner's Jury and also gives the names of the Coroner's jurors. The original of the same is being retained in the files of this office:

"CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

INQUISITION taken at Coroner's Court on the 24th day of January, 1939, before THOS. B. W. LELAND, M.D. Coroner of said City and County, upon the oath of 8 qualified jurors who, being duly summoned and sworn to inquire into all the circumstances attending the death of ARTHUR BARKER and by whom the same was produced, and in what manner and when and where the said deceased came to his death, do say upon their oaths aforesaid:

That the said ARTHUR BARKER, male, white, single, about 39 years old, occupation, laborer, nativity, unknown, residence, Alcatraz Island, came to his death on January 13, 1939, on Alcatraz Island, from shock and hemorrhage following gunshot wounds of head and thigh (left), specimens to toxicologist; negative for alcohol. Specimens to pathologist: Gunshot wound of the head with contusion of the brain and brain hemorrhage, traumatic.

// And we further find:
that the said ARTHUR BARKER met his death attempting to escape from Alcatraz Prison from gunshot wounds inflicted by guards unknown. From the evidence at hand, we, the jury, believe this escape was made possible by the failure of the system for guarding prisoners now in use at Alcatraz Prison and we recommend a drastic improvement by those in authority. Further, that a more efficient system be adopted for illumination of shores and waters immediately surrounding the prison; that the citizens of San Francisco unite in an effort to have a more suitable location for imprisonment of the type of desperados at present housed at Alcatraz. //

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said Coroner and the Jurors aforesaid have to this Inquisition set their hands and seals on the date thereof.

s/s CHAS J. McKEON - Foreman

s/s - R. WILLIAMSON
J. E. BUTTERFIELD
J. C. CAIN
S. SPIELER
A. W. LUNDSTROM
K. D. WEBSTER
GEO. C. CORY,

Approved - THOS. B. W. LELAND, M.D.
CORONER."

This matter was presented to the U.S. Attorney FRANK J. HENNESSY, for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not he contemplated prosecution of the other subjects in this case. MR. HENNESSY advised that he had taken the matter up with the Attorney General's Office and that he had received a reply to hold prosecution in this case in abeyance.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE SAN FRANCISCO FIELD OFFICE WILL keep in contact with the U.S. Attorney's Office and if prosecution is authorized a report will be submitted furnishing the results of prosecution.

PENDING

RPT:MP

March 29, 1939

76-4175

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

During the investigation conducted by the San Francisco Office relative to the recent attempted escape from Alcatraz Penitentiary by Doc Barker and others, an Agent had occasion to review the findings of the Coroner's Jury which investigated the death of Doc Barker. The following quotation taken from the report of the Coroner's Jury dated January 24, 1939, is of interest:

"And we further find:

that the said ARTHUR BARKER met his death attempting to escape from Alcatraz Prison from gunshot wounds inflicted by guards unknown. From the evidence at hand, we, the jury, believe this escape was made possible by the failure of the system for guarding prisoners now in use at Alcatraz Prison and we recommend a drastic improvement by those in authority. Further, that a more efficient system be adopted for illumination of shores and waters immediately surrounding the prison; that the citizens of San Francisco unite in an effort to have a more suitable location for imprisonment of the type of desperados at present housed at Alcatraz."

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Nathan _____
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Coffey _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Miss Gandy _____

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 3 1939

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

February 4, 1939

MEMORANDUM

RE: ALCATRAZ ESCAPE

On January 13, 1939, at 8:00 AM, Special Agent in Charge N. J. L. Pieper of the San Francisco Office telephonically communicated with Mr. E. A. Tamm stating five prisoners who had been missing from the prison at Alcatraz had been located on the beach on the island having been successful in getting outside the confines of the Penitentiary. Approximately one hour later, Mr. Pieper called the Bureau furnishing information indicating that all five escapees had been returned to the prison. He named the five individuals who attempted to escape as being Arthur Barker, Dave Stamphill, Rufus McCain, Henry Young, and William Martin (colored). At that time Mr. Pieper declared that Arthur Barker and Dave Stamphill had been wounded but from the information obtained it was his understanding the other three prisoners were all right.

At 10:00 AM on January 13, 1939, Mr. Bennett, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, called Mr. Foxworth at the Bureau advising of the attempt which five prisoners made to escape from Alcatraz that morning. Mr. Bennett further advised that the Warden of the Penitentiary had notified the San Francisco Office of the FBI requesting their cooperation in the investigation. He likewise indicated that he might have to go to San Francisco himself concerning this matter. Mr. Bennett in addition furnished a copy of a news release which he had furnished to representatives of the press.

At approximately noon on January 13, 1939, the Director telephoned Special Agent in Charge Pieper at San Francisco informing him that the Department wants a thorough investigation made of this matter and instructed Special Agent in Charge Pieper to call him directly as soon as he received any comprehensive information. At that time, Mr. Pieper informed he had already sent two Agents to Alcatraz and he himself was proceeding to that point within a short while.

On the basis of information telephonically communicated to the Director from Mr. Pieper, the following data in connection with the attempted escape are set forth:

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 29 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

There are three prison count checks made during the night at Alcatraz, the first at midnight, the second at 3:00 AM and the third at 6:00 AM. On the morning of January 13, 1939, the 3:00 AM count was made and everybody was accounted for. At approximately 3:35 AM, however, one man was missing from the "D" cell block which is the isolation ward where the five men who attempted to escape were located. The prison guard immediately notified the prison administration as per instructions without waiting to see if any more prisoners were missing. At 3:42 AM, an actual count of the tier was made and it was found that five men were missing. At 4:01 AM the general alarm whistle blew and the San Francisco Office of the Bureau was notified as were other law enforcement agencies in San Francisco. At 4:10 AM Barker and Stamphill were sighted on the shore at Alcatraz and by 4:30 AM all of the remaining prisoners who attempted to escape were sighted. At 5:18 AM Barker was sent to the hospital at Alcatraz and at 5:21 AM Stamphill was similarly confined. At 5:36 all five of the prisoners had been returned to the prison and at 6:00 AM the count showed all prisoners accounted for.

Each of the prisoners had been confined in separate cells and it was later discovered two of the bars on the door had been sawed and filed smooth. Each prisoner escaped through his own cell door and crossed the corridor of the cell block to the window on the outside wall where a bar had been broken loose and an outside window with steel framing had been cut out. It was by this means that the prisoners reached the outside. One of the prisoners who attempted to escape and was subsequently saved from drowning, William Martin, informed that each of the five prisoners had worked on the bars in his respective cell and the window during night and day. It was likewise learned that the escape was planned by Barker and had been ready for at least a month and their only reason for waiting was for the right foggy night. The cell bars had been covered from time to time by paint mixed with floor wax instead of putty which is the usual practice in such attempts as this. When the sawing of the bars was completed, the blades were thrown into the lavatories so that any search of the cells would not disclose the blades. The heavy bar on the inside of the outside wall window is made of steel and could not be cut, in view of which the prisoners pried it loose with an instrument they had made, known as a screw-jack. The use of this screw-jack caused a tension which snapped the bars several times. It was determined that the saws and screw-jack were smuggled into the isolation ward many weeks ago by Stamphill who later committed a violation of the rules as a result of which he, too, was placed in the isolation ward into which he had already smuggled the tools to be used in effecting the escape. The saw blades went through prison inspection in view of the fact that they were glued into musical instruments believed to be mouth harps.

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It was the plan of the five prisoners to get away on a raft which they had crudely made from lumber and driftwood readily obtainable upon the shores of Alcatraz Island. The raft was tied together with sheets torn in strips.

Barker and Stamphill were sighted first and refused all orders to halt, upon which they were immediately fired upon. McCain and Young were apprehended without injury and Martin was pulled out of the water at a point very near to that point of the island which is nearest to San Francisco. Barker died on the evening of January 13, 1939. Stamphill was wounded on the outer part of the upper thigh with another wound a little lower down on the internal surface of the thigh and another wound still lower on the external side of the right leg above the ankle. It was learned that after he was apprehended Barker exclaimed to one of the guards, "I am crazy as hell! I should never have tried it!"

It has been learned from information received, a similar break had been planned by the prisoners detailed to the kitchen of Alcatraz prison, and in connection with this planned escape, it was the intention of the prisoners to seize some of the women and children at the island. The Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office was immediately instructed to advise Warden Johnston of the information in the possession of the Bureau indicating there are numerous knives in the possession of the prisoners in the cells at Alcatraz and also the proposed break to be made by the kitchen crew.

[REDACTED] has stated that the "D" block is a very bad spot and that some weeks ago he made a report on this situation setting out the fact that he could not see the guard on the gun gallery and that the man on the gun gallery could not see him. If this condition existed, it may offer an explanation to some extent as to why the prisoners were able to carry on the sawing of the bars in the windows without being noticed by the guards. b7c b7d

In connection with the administration angles at the prison, it appears that the Deputy Warden, Mr. Miller, has definitely not maintained good relations with his subordinates and does not tell the Warden of the Penitentiary all of the information which comes to his attention by reason of his position as Deputy Warden. It is understood that the guards have from time to time made reports on certain conditions but when furnished to Mr. Miller he has often taken them as personal criticisms which makes the guards appear foolish in performing their duties in front of the prisoners. He also indicated the "D" cell block, used for

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isolation purposes is considered by many as an ideal place by reason of the ventilation and reading material. From the information developed, it would not appear that anyone connected with the prison administration at Alcatraz has been corrupt although there appears to be a question of persons in administrative position failing to properly handle the guards, resulting in a breakdown of morale.

In his letter dated January 14, 1938, the Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office furnished the Bureau with an album prepared of photographs taken subsequent to the attempted escape. Four sets of these photographs were made and forwarded to the San Francisco Office.

In his conversation with the Director on January 14, 1939, Mr. Pieper stated the situation in the isolation section almost makes that section similar to a country club. It appears that the administrative officers of the prison appear to bargain with the prisoners, allowing them to be in any cell they desire or next to anyone they wish just as long as they behave. Mr. Pieper further disclosed the kitchen was thoroughly searched but nothing of value was found, although a meter box saw was located in the paint shop, together with a putty knife with a saw blade on one end of it.

On January 16, 1939, the Director instructed the Special Agent in Charge at San Francisco to prepare two more volumes of the photographs as well as two more copies of the chart and forward them to the Bureau. Mr. Pieper stated that Agents Rice and Farland were continuing their investigation at the island. He likewise revealed that Mr. Bennett of the Bureau of Prisons was there and desired to have Agent Farland present on the following day when questions were being asked. Mr. Pieper advised both Mr. Bennett and Mr. Schilder are living on Alcatraz Island.

Mr. Pieper further informed he had obtained a copy of the letter written by [redacted] stating it was impossible to see the cells in Block "D" of the isolation section from the guard stand, this letter being dated January 9, 1939. He further disclosed that several saw blades and another hand-jack had been found in the isolation section although nothing has developed from the magnet search as the drains go down to the ocean at a steep angle. b7c
b7d

In his teletype dated January 17, 1939, the Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office stated a report had been dictated and should be received at the Bureau by Thursday noon, January 19, 1939.

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He indicated that no additional information had been developed although the inquiry with prison authorities was still proceeding. The prisoners interrogated have refused to make any statement to Director Bennett and the search for tools of escape has been negative although the search is being continued. Mr. Pieper concluded by stating his investigation is substantially complete.

On January 13, 1939, upon receipt of the original information as to the attempted escape a memorandum was prepared outlining briefly the sentences in connection with which these five individuals were sentenced to the United States Penitentiary at Alcatraz Island. Also attached to this memorandum are photographs of the prisoners together with copies of their criminal records.

On January 18, 1939, the Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office telephonically communicated with the Director, at which time he stated that Mr. Bennett, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, had confidential information indicating that a guard by the name of [REDACTED] is possibly a contact man who worked between Doc Barker and somebody on the shore. Mr. Bennett requested the Bureau to ascertain whether or not there were any contacts made by this guard and whether or not he acted as a contact man between the inside of the prison and the outside. The source of Mr. Bennett's information is not available, although Mr. Bennett was in a conference with convicts in the hospital all day, January 18th. The Director instructed Mr. Pieper to proceed with this investigation, but effort should be made to obtain the source of Mr. Bennett's information. b7c

By letter dated January 16, 1939, the Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Office transmitted a personal and confidential letter to the Director, in which he outlined information developed as a result of the investigation conducted at Alcatraz subsequent to the escape. His letter was broken down into different divisions as mentioned herein.

MORALE AT ALCATRAZ ISLAND

In this connection [REDACTED] bitterly accused the Warden and Deputy Warden of being responsible for the trouble, claiming that it is due to a lack of proper administration. b7c b7d

THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

Information from [REDACTED] revealed that the prisoners could "bargain" with the Deputy Warden, who would make a deal with them to grant them certain wishes in return for their not causing any disturbances. In this connection it was also mentioned relative to the Cole-Roe escape by one of the guards, that the guard on duty in the model tower had his hand in a cast and it would have been impossible for him to shoot. b7c b7d

WEAKNESSES IN D BLOCK ISOLATION

Under this section Mr. Pieper outlined a letter written by [REDACTED] on January 9, 1939, directed to the Warden, in which he submitted for the latter's consideration three items which he deemed necessary to further the security of the institution. [REDACTED] also pointed out that his duties on the west gun gallery are so explicit and confining and that the officer on duty has to do certain little things which allow the men in isolation to be utterly unobserved on occasions for possibly one and a half hours at a time. b7c b7d

MEANS OF GETTING TOOLS INTO CELL BLOCKS

With regard to this classification Mr. Pieper explained that tools of escape might be brought into cell blocks through the kitchen or kitchen basement, as there are a number of cell block orderlies working around in that area constantly.

MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO MAKE ESCAPE TOOLS

It is pointed out there is an unlimited source of material for escape tools, particularly in the various shops. As a result of the shakedown different saw blades and other tools of escape were located.

ALARMS

It appears that immediately following word of the escape the fire alarm was sounded in addition to the regular escape siren, which caused a number of the officials on the island to believe a fire was in progress. It was learned that three men obtained the fire truck, but when they reached the canteen they were turned back, after being advised it was an escape rather than a fire.

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WEAKNESSES STILL APPARENT

b7c
b7d

[REDACTED] advised that his information indicates that the prisoners in the power house are getting ready to go. Mr. Pieper discloses that this rumble was picked up by Agent Farland and himself several months ago.

A copy of the above mentioned personal and confidential letter was sent to the Attorney General and to Honorable Joseph B. Keenan, The Assistant to the Attorney General. A copy was also transmitted to the Director of the Bureau of Prisoners, with the suggestion that the information contained therein relative to the identity of various employees be handled in a most discreet manner.

The report of Special Agent in Charge Pieper, dated at San Francisco, California, January 17, 1939, was received at the Bureau on January 19, 1939. This report contains information secured as a result of signed statements furnished by various guards at the Penitentiary. A copy of this report was likewise furnished to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons.

The San Francisco Office also furnished two additional albums containing various photographs showing different points of interest on the island. One of these albums was forwarded to the Attorney General. In the album retained at the Bureau, photographs of the five subjects were included on the last page. Copies of these photographs were also forwarded to the San Francisco Office, pursuant to the request received from that Division.

By personal and confidential letter dated January 26, 1939, the San Francisco Office advise that contact had been had with Warden Johnston of the Penitentiary, who stated that there were no new developments. The Warden was specifically asked concerning new developments for the purpose of seeing whether or not he would reveal information relative to developments as a result of the shakedown which was still in progress at Alcatraz. It had been learned confidentially that during the check up that had been going on during the escape, five bars in the Hospital were found to have been sawed. This information had reached the San Francisco Office from various confidential sources, but the Warden at the Penitentiary had not seen fit to furnish that information to the Agents, although he was not questioned point-blank concerning this discovery. It is further indicated that it is the general

opinion of the guards that nothing will come of the investigation made by Mr. Bennett, it being their opinion that the investigation is nothing more or less than a "white wash".

Mr. Pieper also furnished a copy of an editorial from the San Francisco News, wherein a coroner's jury urges the Government to find a "more suitable location" than Alcatraz Island to imprison its worst murderers, kidnapers, etc.

In conclusion Mr. Pieper stated that the investigation conducted at the request of Mr. Bennett looking to the possible connection of Guard [REDACTED] has not materialized, and a report will be submitted as soon as the Los Angeles Office has completed the investigation in its district. b7c

By letter dated January 26, 1939, the San Francisco Office furnished a letter and papers received from a Miss Frances Held of Apartment 311, 2709 West Pico Street, Los Angeles, California. It is the opinion of the San Francisco Office that there is nothing in this letter to indicate that it came from an inmate at Alcatraz. Photostatic copies of the letter have been prepared and forwarded to the San Francisco and Los Angeles Field Divisions.

By memorandum to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, dated March 8, 1939, the Bureau furnished a copy of the report of Special Agent J. H. Rice, dated at San Francisco, California, February 4, 1939, containing information relative to the investigation conducted concerning the activities of one [REDACTED]. This particular investigation was conducted at the request of Mr. James V. Bennett, who had received information of a confidential nature from certain inmates of Alcatraz Prison. b7c

(P. Jones)

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RAG:JHK

March 28, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM *Em*

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Attached hereto is a memorandum which was originally started immediately following the receipt of information indicating that an escape had been attempted at Alcatraz Prison. As additional information was received from time to time, it was recorded in this memorandum. Since this investigation has been practically completed, the need for the continuance of this memorandum no longer exists and consequently it is being included in the file.

Respectfully,

R. A. Guerin
R. A. Guerin

1 ENCL.

RECORDED

76-4175-35
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 29 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TAMM

201

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RPK:MP

March 29, 1939

76-4175

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

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During the investigation conducted by the San Francisco Office relative to the recent attempted escape from Alcatraz Penitentiary by Doc Barker and others, an Agent had occasion to review the findings of the Coroner's Jury which investigated the death of Doc Barker. The following quotation taken from the report of the Coroner's Jury dated January 24, 1939, is of interest:

"And we further find:
that the said ARTHUR^OBARKER met his death attempting to escape from Alcatraz Prison from gunshot wounds inflicted by guards unknown. From the evidence at hand, we, the jury, believe this escape was made possible by the failure of the system for guarding prisoners now in use at Alcatraz Prison and we recommend a drastic improvement by those in authority. Further, that a more efficient system be adopted for illumination of shores and waters immediately surrounding the prison; that the citizens of San Francisco unite in an effort to have a more suitable location for imprisonment of the type of desperados at present housed at Alcatraz."

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

RECORDED

76-4175-36
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 3 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TOLSON

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-57976-219

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
San Francisco, California
April 14, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: ARTHUR E. BARKER, with aliases,
et al; ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONERS.

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting under separate cover a death mask of ARTHUR E. BARKER, with aliases: "DOC" BARKER, BOB BARKER, CLAUD DALE, which was made by PAUL C. GREEN, Technician on the staff of the Coroner for the City and County of San Francisco. This death mask was prepared on January 14, 1939, prior to the autopsy, and was made available through the courtesy of DR. T. B. W. LELAND, Coroner, City and County of San Francisco. It is suggested that you may desire to address a communication to DR. LELAND and MR. GREEN, thanking them for giving this mask to us.

It is interesting to note that the attempt to escape was made on "Friday the Thirteenth", the mortal wounds being inflicted in the early morning hours of that day and BARKER dying at 5:40 P. M. on Friday the thirteenth. It occurred to me that you may desire to use this death mask in one of the exhibits at the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. Pieper
N. J. L. PIEPER

Special Agent in Charge

LHR/mjd
76-347

RECORDED
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INDEXED

memo
4-20-39
Leland
4-21-39

76-4175-37	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
APR 15 1939	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
L. J. L. PIEPER	
FUG - MICHIGAN	

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

KPC:MTG

Washington, D. C.

76-4175-37

April 20, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN

Re: Death Mask of "Doc" Barker

The San Francisco Division, under date of April 14, 1939, transmitted to the Bureau a death mask of "Doc" Barker. This was made by Paul C. Green on the staff of the Coroner's Office of the City and County of San Francisco on January 14, 1939, following the autopsy after Barker was caught attempting his escape.

This is a very good death mask. I am arranging for a negative mould of the same to be made at once in the Laboratory so that several copies can be made in mouleage and can be used in the Director's Office or wherever else it may be considered desired to exhibit.

Mr. Pieper in transmitting this mask suggested a letter be addressed to Dr. Leland and Mr. Green thanking them for presenting the mask to the Bureau. Such a letter is attached hereto subject to the Director's approval.

Respectfully,

SPG
E. P. Coffey

Enclosure

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76-4175-37
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 24 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. A. J. Egan
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

KPC:MTD

RECORDED 76-4175-57

April 21, 1939

Dr. T. B. W. Leland
Coroner
San Francisco, California

My dear Coroner:

Mr. Pieper in charge of the San Francisco Division of this Bureau has forwarded to me the death mask of Arthur E. Barker, with aliases. I want to thank you for your kindness in making this available to the Bureau. I am sure it will make a valuable record in the FBI.

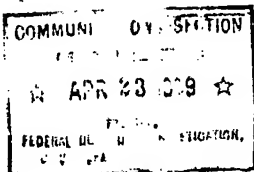
May I also commend the excellent work of Mr. Paul C. Green of your technical staff as reflected in the preparation of this mask.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

CC-San Francisco

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____



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